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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/848,140	05/03/2001	Hideyo Osanai	134.136	7450
7590	10/01/2003		EXAMINER	
James E. Nilles NILLES & NILLES, S.C. Firststar Center, Suite 2000 777 East Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53202-5345			DINH, TUAN T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2827	
DATE MAILED: 10/01/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/848,140	OSANAI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Tuan T Dinh	2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 06 January 2003 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

The office action mailed on 10/02/02 is hereby withdrawn.

Drawings

1. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings filed on 01/06/03 have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagase et al. (U. S. Patent 6,033,787).

The figures and reference numbers referred to in this office action are used merely to indicate an example of a specific teaching and are not to be taken as limiting.

As to claims 1, 4-6, Nagase et al. disclose a metal-ceramic circuit board as shown in figures 1-2 comprising

a aluminum base plate (11, column 4, line 41) and a ceramic substrate board (13, column 4, lines 42-43) made of a material selected from alumina, aluminum nitride

and silicon nitride (column 4, lines 39-40), wherein one surface (a bottom surface) of the ceramic substrate board is bonded directly to the aluminum base plate (column 4, lines 41-43, see figure 1).

As to claims 2-3, Nagase et al. disclose the board as shown in figures 1-2 wherein the other surface (a top surface) of the ceramic substrate board has a metal conductive member (12, column 4, lines 41-42) made of aluminum.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagase et al. (U. S. Patent 6,033,787) in view of Hayashi et al. (U. S. Patent 6,110,297).

The figures and reference numbers referred to in this office action are used merely to indicate an example of a specific teaching and are not to be taken as limiting.

As to claim 7, Nagase et al. disclose a power module (column 1, lines 5-11) as shown in figures 1-2 comprising

a aluminum base plate (11),

a ceramic substrate board (13), and

a semiconductor tip (12), wherein one surface of the ceramic substrate (13) board is bonded directly to the base plate (11), said semiconductor tip is provided on the other surface of said ceramic substrate board.

Nagase et al. do not disclose the aluminum base plate having a proof stress not higher than 320Mpa and the base plate has a thickness not smaller than 1mm.

Hayashi et al. show a aluminum/aluminum alloy base plate having a proof stress not higher than 320Mpa and a thickness not smaller than 1mm (column 14, lines 9-63).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a proof stress (bending strength) not higher than 320Mpa and a thickness not smaller than 1mm of a aluminum/aluminum alloy base plate in the power module of Nagase et al., as taught by Hayashi et al., in order to provide a maximum deflection and anti breaking strengths of the metal base of the circuit board.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tanaka et al., Komorita et al., deRochemont et al., and Tsujimura et al. disclose related art.

Art Unit: 2827

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T Dinh whose telephone number is 703-306-5856. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on 703-308-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0658.


Tuan Dinh
September 05, 2003.